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POSITION PAPER
No. 5
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR
WATER MANAGEMENT

POSITION PAPER ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COST-SHARING ON WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Several characteristics of the water resource, its mobility, its uneven distribution, and its critical nature for maintenance of life have resulted in water being retained as a public resource. This public ownership of water has in turn resulted in public involvement, through government, in the management of this resource. One management procedure which has been widely adopted is cost-sharing between government and local groups in water management projects which result in benefit to the general public.

Alberta has had no consistent program for cost-sharing on water resource projects. Some types of projects have been eligible for government assistance through cost-sharing under arrangements which varied from time to time. Other types of projects have not been eligible for any cost-sharing. In some instances, special cost-sharing arrangements have been negotiated on individual projects.

The Government of the Province of Alberta has recognized the need for an equitable, practical, and easily applied policy on financial assistance for cost-sharing of water resource projects. Accordingly, this problem has been reviewed and the results of this review are contained in the attached report entitled "Cost-Sharing on Water Management Projects".

The Government of the Province of Alberta is prepared to cost-share with local authorities on all water management projects from which direct public benefits accrue. "Local authority" means a city, town, new town, village, municipal district, county, or the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the case of an improvement district or special area, or the Board of Directors of an irrigation district, or the Board of Trustees of a drainage district. The degree of government participation in any cost-sharing arrangement is related to the level of public benefit derived. In keeping with the objective of formulating an equitable, practical, and easily applied policy, specified percentage contributions have been developed for each type of water resource project.

Costs which are shareable are engineering costs related to project design and capital costs associated with construction. Acquisition of land and operation and maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the local authority except as otherwise established by specific agreement.

In summary, the provincial government capital cost contribution for each type of water resource project is as follows:

		Provincial Government	Local Authority
A.	Sources of Water Supply to Municipalities		
	(i) Preliminary Engineering Analysis	100%	0%
	(ii) Detailed Engineering Analysis	up to 100% (subject to individual negotiation)	remainder

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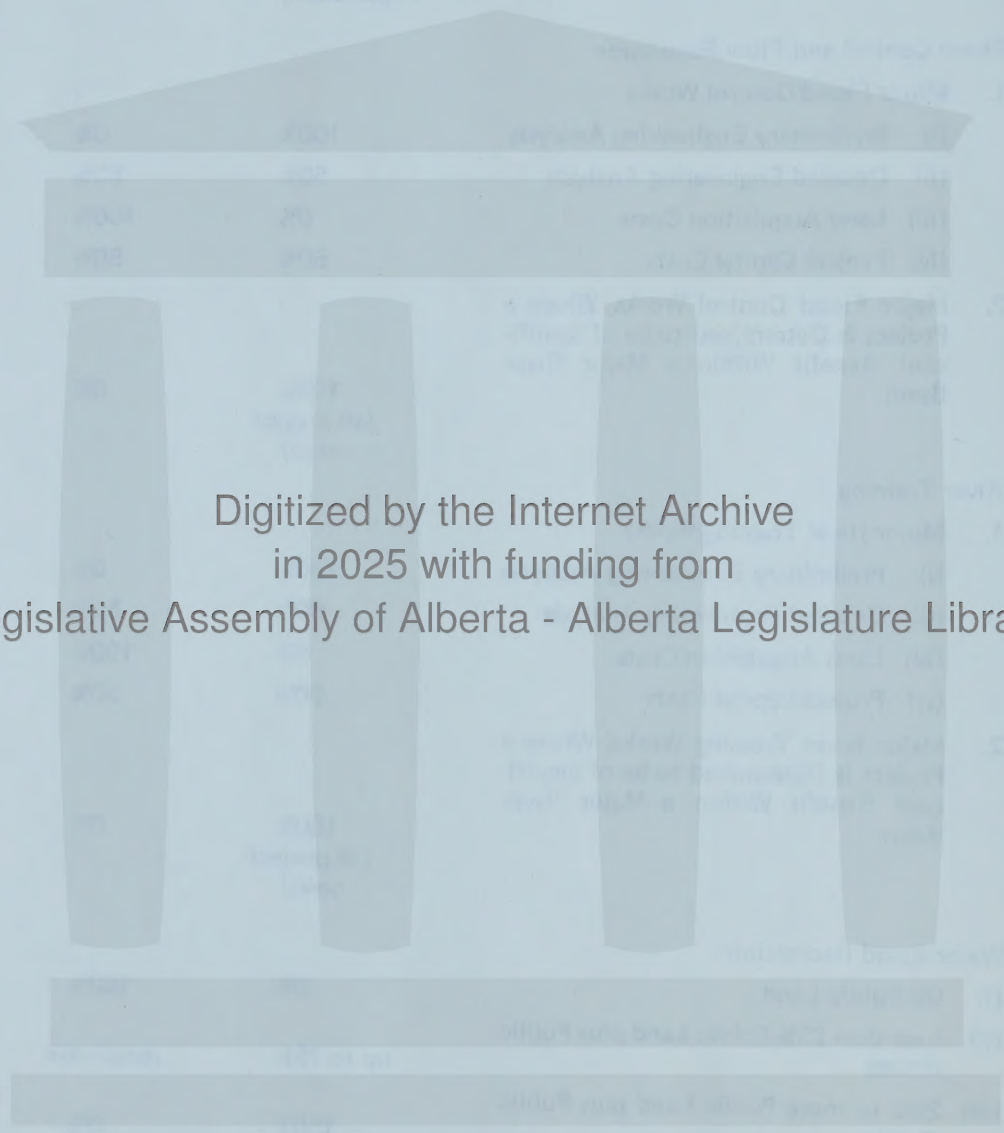
	Provincial Government	Local Authority
(iii) Land Aquisition Costs	0%	100%
(iv) Project Capital Costs	up to 100% (subject to individual negotiation)	remainder
B. Flood Control and Flow Regulation		
1. Minor Flood Control Works		
(i) Preliminary Engineering Analysis	100%	0%
(ii) Detailed Engineering Analysis	50%	50%
(iii) Land Acquisition Costs	0%	100%
(iv) Project Capital Costs	50%	50%
**2. Major Flood Control Works, Where a Project is Determined to be of Significant Benefit Within a Major River Basin	100% (all project costs)	0%
C. River Training		
1. Minor River Training Works		
(i) Preliminary Engineering Analysis	100%	0%
(ii) Detailed Engineering Analysis	50%	50%
(iii) Land Acquisition Costs	0%	100%
(iv) Project Capital Costs	50%	50%
**2. Major River Training Works, Where a Project is Determined to be of Significant Benefit Within a Major River Basin	100% (all project costs)	0%
D. Water-Based Recreation		
(i) 0% Public Land	0%	100%
(ii) Less than 25% Public Land plus Public Access	up to 75%	remainder
**(iii) 25% or more Public Land plus Public Access	100%	0%
E. Fish and Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement		
(i) Privately Developed	0%	100%
(ii) Developed by a Local Authority Plus Public Access	25%	75%
**(iii) Developed by the Provincial Government	100%	0%



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		Provincial Government	Local Authority
**F.	Major Onstream Works for River Basin Management (River Stabilization, Irrigation, Water Storage, Water Diversion, Multipurpose).	100%	0%
G.	Municipal Sewage Works	Financial arrangements for municipal sewage treatment works are outlined in the "Position Paper on Financial Assistance for Pollution Control."	

** Denotes projects which are identified to be of major benefit to the province.

Cost-sharing arrangements are summarized in detail in Table No. I.

TABLE NO. I
SUMMARY OF COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

Type of Project	Percentage Contribution by Type of Cost							
	Preliminary Engineering Analysis		Detailed Engineering Analysis		Land Aquisition Costs		Project Capital Costs	
	Provincial Government	Local Authority	Provincial Government	Local Authority	Provincial Government	Local Authority	Provincial Government	Local Authority
Source of Water Supply to a Municipality	100%	0%	up to 100% (1)	remainder	0%	100%	up to 100% (1)	remainder
Flood Control and Flow Regulations								
1. Minor Works	100%	0%	50%	50%	0%	100%	50%	50%
2. Major Works (2)	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——
River Training								
1. Minor Works	100%	0%	50%	50%	0%	100%	50%	50%
2. Major Works (2)	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——
Water-Based Recreation								
1. 0% Public Land	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%
2. Less than 25% public land plus public access	100%	0%	up to 75%	remainder	0%	100%	up to 75%	remainder
3. 25% or more public land plus public access	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Fish and Waterfowl Habitat Environment								
1. Privately developed	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%
2. Developed by local authority	100%	0%	25%	75%	0%	100%	25%	75%
3. Developed by provincial government(3)	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Major Onstream Works (4)	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——	100%	——

NOTES:

(1) Subject to individual negotiation.

(2) Where a project is determined to be of significant benefit within a major river basin, and also of a major benefit to the province.

(3) Denotes projects which are identified to be of major benefit to the province.

(4) A river basin management project which will be of major benefit to the province (river stabilization, irrigation, water storage, water diversion, multipurpose).

(5) Financial arrangements for municipal sewage treatment works are outlined in the "Position Paper on Financial Assistance for Pollution Control".

The acceptance of cost-sharing arrangements for water resource projects does not imply that all proposed projects will receive approval for cost-sharing. Before any project is considered for cost-sharing, the following conditions must be met:

1. The project must be initiated by a local authority.

2. There is a demonstrated need for the project.

3. The project is in the public interest.

4. Detailed project planning will be completed, and all aspects of water resource management will be given consideration.

5. The local authority initiating the project will accept responsibility for all operation and maintenance costs.

The condition which will take precedence over all others is the priority for water management established by the government.

Priority of projects will be established by the Government of the Province of Alberta based on the availability of funds to undertake water resources projects and on water management objectives set by the government.

This policy will be implemented under the jurisdiction of the Water Resources Act. The policy will be administered by the Water Resources Division, Alberta Department of the Environment.

OTHER SERVICES

In addition to financial assistance through cost-sharing arrangements, the Government of the Province of Alberta, through the Water Resources Division, Department of the Environment extends a number of technical services to the public which apply to problem solution, management, and administration of the water resource. The following paragraphs define these services and indicate those which are extended entirely at government cost and those for which some financial contribution is made by the applicant.

1. General Inspection Services

Requests are received from individuals, local groups, local authorities, and private enterprise concerning any matter related to the water resource: its use, control, development, or administration. Response to these requests can include action extending from verbal or written advice to field inspections, surveys, and the preparation of reports containing technical information, suggestions, and recommendations.

Since these services are extended province-wide, collectively, they represent benefit to all interests of the general public. Accordingly, such services are extended at public expense with the exception that costs are recovered where investigations for private enterprise entail singificant expenditures.

Specifically, general inspection services are extended in the following areas, but are not necessarily confined to these:

(i) flood control — river and stream flood channels; agricultural land; cities, towns and villages; private holdings; industrial developments.

(ii) erosion control — river or stream channel erosion; land surface erosion.

(iii) watershed management — proposals for subdivision of land adjacent to water bodies; general groundwater availability for proposed subdivisions; environmental impact arising from private and industrial developments.

(iv) groundwater contamination — investigation of existing or potential contamination problems.

(v) soil drainage — seepage and/or alkali conditions requiring the design of remedial measures for alleviation of salted and waterlogged land problems.

(vi) on farm water management — technical advice is provided on the most efficient and effective methods of utilization and conservation of water on farm lands.

2. **Dissemination of Data**

As part of an ongoing requirement for carrying out the responsibilities of the Water Resources Division, basic data are continuously being obtained and analyzed on all aspects of water. These data, available to the public upon request, include information on streamflow, flood frequencies and magnitudes, availability of groundwater, precipitation, lake levels, water quality, and storage potentials to name but a few.

The information is made available at public expense.

3. **Flow Forecasting Service**

The Water Resources Division maintains a flow forecasting service designed to inform the public of unusual occurrences on the province's rivers, streams, or lakes. Excessive rainfall or rapid snow melt may result in potentially dangerous high water conditions. Continuous monitoring of precipitation levels and stream discharge plus analysis of river or lake characteristics allows flow forecasts to be developed. Knowledge of probable flood levels allows private landowners, communities, and government agencies the opportunity to undertake appropriate action to reduce the damage occurring from high water conditions. This service, available province-wide, is provided at public expense.

4. **Special Services**

Certain special services are available to the public for which, because of their nature or costs, certain charges are levied. Special services include:

(i) Rural water development — in association with an ongoing inventory of groundwater availability, groundwater test holes can be drilled if requested. Test holes cannot be used as wells, but supply information on the quantity and quality of groundwater available. This service is available on request. However, the following fees are levied:

application fee (100 foot hole)	$ 50
101 — 300 foot hole @ $.50/ft	$100
301 — 500 foot hole @ $.25/ft	$ 50
compressor test and water sample	$ 25

(ii) Dugout testing — test drilling is completed to establish the water retention capacity of the soil. A fee of $15 is charged.

(iii) Land fill site investigations — the potential of land fill sites to contaminate groundwater supplies is investigated. A minimum fee of $50 is levied plus $.50 per foot in excess of 100 feet of drilling plus the cost of any materials installed for observation purposes.

(iv) Emergency water supplies – if the source of a municipal water supply unexpectedly fails, the Division provides pumping equipment on a short term basis to alleviate the water shortage. Charges are levied as follows:

rental of pipe @ $.10 per foot
labour and supervision @ $3.25 per hour
hauling pipe @ $11.20 per hour

5. **Services Related to Specific Programs**

In addition to services available to the public at large, services are available on a more restricted basis to specific programs administered by the Division. Examples of services related to specific programs include:

(i) Engineering services to the Irrigation Capital Works program which is designed to maintain existing irrigation districts in a workable condition.

(ii) Land disposal of sewage effluent. This is an experimental research program designed to test the feasibility of disposing of sewage effluent by irrigation. Technical advice and experimental testing can be made available to interested communities.

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